

Alice Hedt to Testify at May 2 Hearing On the Nursing Home Reform Act

The Senate Special Committee on Aging, chaired by Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI), will hold an oversight hearing Wednesday, May 2, titled “The Nursing Home Reform Act Turns Twenty: What Has Been Accomplished, and What Challenges Remain?” NCCNHR Executive Director Alice Hedt will testify.

NCCNHR has encouraged several congressional committees to hold hearings to review progress and problems in the decades since the law was passed, and this is the first to be held.

Time: Wednesday, May 2, 10:30 a.m.

Place: 628 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC

The hearing will be webcast live from the Senate Special Committee on Aging website, <http://aging.senate.gov/>.

The first witness will be Kathryn Allen, Director of Health Care Issues at the Government Accountability Office, describing the findings from the just-released GAO report on federal enforcement. Also testifying will be Charlene Harrington, who has frequently presented her research on nurse staffing and enforcement at NCCNHR annual meetings. She was a member of the Institute of Medicine study committee whose 1986 recommendations on nursing home regulation paved the way for passage of the law.

You can download the GAO report from the GAO website:

Nursing Homes: Efforts to Strengthen Federal Enforcement Have Not Deterred Some Homes from Repeatedly Harming Residents. GAO-07-241, March 26.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-241>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07241high.pdf>

The hearing will consist of two panels:

Panel 1

Kathryn Allen - director, Health Care Issues, Government Accountability Office

James Randolph Farris - regional administrator, Dallas Office, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Panel 2

Charlene Harrington - professor of sociology and nursing, University of California/San Francisco

Alice H. Hedt - executive director, NCCNHR

Mary Ousley - president. Ousley and Associates and former chairwoman, American Health Care Association

Orlene Christie - director, Legislative and Statutory Compliance Office, Michigan
Department of Community Health